

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Desert Triangle Scheme in Rajasthan

1930. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan Government with the help of Japan, have prepared any 'Desert Triangle Scheme' for Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and later on Jodhpur and Nagaur districts were also included in it;

(b) whether for the development of above cities, the said scheme has been sent to the Union Government for its approval;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval; and

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (d) The Rajasthan Government has not prepared any Desert Triangle Scheme with the help of Government of Japan.

Rajasthan Government had prepared a proposal for Development of Infrastructure Tourism in the Desert Triangle Jodhpur-Bikaner-Jaisalmer for funding assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan in 1992. This was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for consideration. As the proposal was not detailed enough, a revised proposal was submitted by Rajasthan Government in 1994 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. In 1996 the Department of Economic Affairs suggested that the Government of Rajasthan may submit the proposal to prepare detailed feasibility studies for the Integrated Area Development Plan for the Desert Circuit of Rajasthan through Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan under Technical Co-operation Programme. Accordingly, Rajasthan Government submitted the proposal in 1997 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. This includes districts of Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur.

[English]

Promotion of Hindi

1931. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any

special scheme for the promotion of Hindi in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes taken up in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are encouraging establishment of Hindi medium schools and colleges in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India are implementing the following major schemes for the promotion of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking States including West Bengal :

(i) Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/Union Territories.

(ii) Teaching of Hindi through correspondence courses.

(iii) Extension Programmes to promote Hindi.

(iv) Schemes for financial assistance to voluntary organisations.

(v) Hindi teachers training programme.

(c) and (d) Schools and colleges are generally established by State Government/private managements keeping in view the need for school and higher education in the particular area and infrastructural facilities available.

Liquid Fuel Supply

1932. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Liquid-fuel supply pact for power producers is ready" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to increase the oil pool account of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The model fuel supply agreement has not yet been finalised. Discussions are on with IPPs, Ministry of Power, Financial Institutions etc. on the basis of the draft model FSA.

(c) Pricing of liquid fuels for IPPs would be outside the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and there will be no linkage, in any manner, with the oil pool account and thus there will be no impact of supply of power fuels on oil pool account.

Development of National Highway No. 23

1933. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of National Highway No. 23 from Rourkela to Ranchi and Rourkela to Banarpal is very poor;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have sent any proposal to Asian Development Bank or any other International agency for financial assistance for the development of these Highways;

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard so far and the time schedule for taking for the development of these Highways; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) National Highway No. 23 is being maintained generally in traffic worth condition within the available resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Emergency Landing by Air India Flights

1934. SHRI E. AHMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of emergency landing by Air India flights for the last one year; and

(b) the reasons for these emergency landing?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1st July, 1996 to 30th June, 1997, there were two incidents wherein the pilot had declared emergency or followed emergency procedures before landing as per the following details :

(i) Air India aircraft while operating flight from Tel Aviv to Mumbai on 17/18.11.96 suffered failure of DC power at Djibouti. The components were replaced at Mumbai.

(ii) Air India aircraft while operating flight from Singapore to Trivandrum on 15.12.96 developed multiple inflight defects at Singapore. Its generator control unit was replaced at Mumbai.

[Translation]

Yashpal Committee

1935. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Yashpal Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action for implementing recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States which have implemented the recommendations of the Committee by March, 1997; and

(e) the names of States which have disagreed to the implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In the 50th meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 2.3.94, State Governments have expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The consensus of such views was identified and the course of action to be adopted by the State Governments suggested to them. The implementation of the recommendations has been partially initiated by most State and Central agencies. The recommendations of the Committee are of two categories :

(i) Those requiring one time action; and

(ii) recommendations requiring long term intervention.

The Government has issued two sets of action points, one for States/UTs and the other for Central Agencies to facilitate implementation.

Implementation of the recommendations by the State Governments is a part of their on-going programme of development of school education.

[English]

BVEP in Assam

1936. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited is undertaking exploration and drilling activities for oil in Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project (BVEP) in Assam;